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October 17, 2018

Join Us for a Conversation with Colleagues

October 23, 2018 at 1:00 pm EDT at Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta GA

You are invited to join Southeast Conference and the Three Consulting Conference Ministers for a time of conversation and listening.

Facilitated by Rev. Don Longbottom, Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel, and Rev. John Vertigan, this will be an opportunity to share with your peers your questions, concerns, and feelings about the recent changes within the Conference. There will be space to share sorrow and joy, confusion and anger, fear and hope as we begin to move forward as a Conference.

Authorized Ministers and Church Leaders are welcome and encouraged to attend the session in Marietta, GA. If you are unable to join us in person, please contact the Conference Office (hfosburgh@secucc.org) for details about participating virtually.

A Message from the Moderator

"'We' press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14; NKJV, inclusiveness added)

Goals are certainly important. They give direction and purpose to a person's life and to organizations as well such as the Southeast Conference (UCC). Goals are building blocks to where believe God is calling us as the SEC in ministry and service.

Over the 52 years of our Conference's existence, we have seen many changes and faced many challenges. The transition we face today from new

challenges require our reassessing the goals to which the SEC feels called of God to accomplish, but also the best methods, practices and processes to "press toward these goals."

The SEC/UCC Board is engaged in setting appropriate, productive goals to facilitate the conference reaching our "prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Let me share with a couple of them:

On October 23, 2018, SEC/UCC Clergy and church leaders will gather in Atlanta for a "Conversation with Colleagues." Led by our 3 Consulting Conference ministers, this is an opportunity to give these leaders a time of sharing their hopes, opinions, feelings and concerns about the Conference.

In November, the Board anticipates making the announcement and introduction of an Acting Conference Minister (ACM). Prior to that announcement the Board will meet in Atlanta to finalize prioritization of expectations for the new ACM in leading us through this time of discernment and transition.

Processes and programs will change to accomplish it, but we are clear that our goal as a Conference is to understand and answer the Still Speaking God's upward call through ministry and service.

Each of us has a major role to ensure we reach the goal and it begins with prayer. I request your prayers for the Conference, the Board and a new ACM, as "We press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" for the SEC.

Blessings,

Reverend J R Finney II
Conference Moderator and Board Chair

Video Message from Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel

A message from one of our Consulting Conference Ministers

Rev. Brown Daniel compares our time of transition to the time when the disciples were in the upper room after Jesus' death. Something motivated them to leave that safe room and return to their community, where the Pentecost story came alive.

From the Generosity Coordinator

I greet you ALL with the joy of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

What a blessing that we survived Hurricane Michael and that we continue to be blessed beyond measure. WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE. We continue to pray for all those affected by this devastation and we are reaching out to ALL those affected. Please seek comfort in knowing that our Disaster Ministry teams are there, on the front lines to bring comfort and aid to all those in need.
Your OCWM (Our Churches Wider Missions) dollars at work.

Our purpose, our vision and our mission is:

- To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbors as ourselves,
- We are united in Christ's love, a just world for all,
- We are united in spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all and seek justice for all.

We remain grateful for all the ways that you continue to support our ministries and our missions. As the chart below reflects where we are...please continue to give. We really need your support.

I am so grateful for all the way that you all continue to welcome me into you worship space and your conversations. I'm available to you.

Peace and blessings, as we CONTINUE TO JOURNEY, TOGETHER.

Carrole Moss
Generosity Coordinator
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2019 Southeast Conference Annual Meeting Logo Design Contest

We are getting excited in the Southeast Conference for our 2019 Annual Meeting. ARE YOU? Here is one way that you can help us get others excited to join us this year to make our Annual Meeting the biggest and best ever.

We need you to help us coming up with a unique design/logo centered around this year's theme:

"**That We May All Be One**" (1 Corinthians 12:12)

The deadline to submit your entry is November 9, 2018 at midnight. All submissions must be in JPEG format. Please send your entry to Rev James Bowman Harris at james@cookevilleucc.org.

Judging by the Annual Meeting Planning Committee will take place on Monday, November 12 in a "blind" contest. There will be one overall logo design winner; all other entries will be used to create interest in our workshops, with honorable mentions for each submitter.

Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2018. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. Click here to download the entire 2018 prayer list.

Week of October 15

- Peace Congregational UCC; Clemson, South Carolina
- Julius Jessup Peterson
- Jennifer Sanders
- Lyle Weible
- Nancy Elsenheimer

Week of October 22

- Methodist Congregational Federated; Demorest, Georgia
- Soo Man Chang
- Artis Johnson
- Troy Sanders
- J Houston Wheeler

Week of October 29

- First United Church UCC; Belvidere, Tennessee
- Sankofa UCC-Atlanta, Georgia
- Kwan Hae Chi
- Charmaine Penn Johnson
- Edward Schneider
- Ted Elsenheimer

Churches in Transition: United Church of Huntsville, Huntsville AL; Garden of Grace, Columbia SC; Emmanuel, Greenville SC; First Congregational, Birmingham AL; Pilgrimage, Marietta GA; First Congregational Christian, Montgomery AL; First Congregational, Savannah GA

Ecclesiastical Council for Mercy Packer-Monroe

There will be an Ecclesiastical Council for Mercy Packer-Monroe on October 30th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Central Congregational UCC. The Council is the final step in the United Church of Christ in the process towards Ordination. For those unable to attend in person, join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: https://zoom.us/j/950359340. If joining by phone, +1 408 638 0986, meeting ID is 950 359 340.

News from the Wider Church

SECUCC Folks Attend Retired Servants Retreat

Eleven folks from the Southeast Conference recently attended the Southeast/Southern Conference Retired Servants Retreat, held once again at the Blowing Rock Conference Center. Attendees from the SEC were: Elaine Ahrendt, Clara & Jim Benson, Trish Greeves, Marie Fortune & Anne Ganley, Tom & Clarice Mitchell, Joyce Myers-Brown, and Edwin & Judith Olson. Read an article on our website for more details.

News from Our Local Congregations

Pride Events in October Across the Conference

Pilgrim Congregational Church celebrated Chattanooga Pride on Sunday, October 7 by participating in the local Pride festival and also hosting a worship services.

Three Atlanta-area churches marched in the Atlanta Pride Parade on Sunday, October 14. **Kirkwood UCC** and **Virginia-Highland Church** once again had entries, and the **Victory for the World Church** Gateway Ministry walked in the Atlanta Pride Parade for the very first time.

Also, for the first time in history, the parade was televised LIVE on WPCH/Peachtree TV. Participation in the parade by our local congregations gave us the opportunity to spread the UCC's message of love, inclusion and acceptance.

Upper Room Fellowship for Middle Tennessee Churches is Saturday, October 20

At Brookmeade there will be a special potluck supper gathering of Nashville & Mid-Tenn. UCC churches @ 5:30 PM on Oct 20th to grow in closer communion with God & one another! The evening's theme is "For a Closer Communion with God & One Another: Starting Each Day with Prayer & Meditation on God's Word!", featuring readings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The Howard Congregational Church choir will be in concert. The special Guest Speaker is Rev. Marsha Brown, pastor of Phoenix Christian Church, UCC from Wildersville, TN.

Circluar Church Fall Lectures in Theology & Ethics

The Circular Congregational Church Fall Lectures in Theology & Ethics program welcomes Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, the Krister Stendahl Professor of Divinity at the Harvard Divinity School. On Thursday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Fiorenza will present "Reading the Bible in the Public Square." On Friday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. she will present "Scripture, Politics and the Rhetoric of Subordination." A light reception & book signing will follow each lecture. Free & open to the public. Childcare is provided.

Training and Learning Opportunities

Healthy Boundaries 201 — Beyond Basics and Into Internet Technology

The Southeast Conference, in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia, is pleased to offer two Healthy Boundaries training sessions for clergy and church leaders.

Healthy Boundaries 201 is an advanced discussion of healthy boundaries for clergy and church leaders, designed for those who have completed Healthy Boundaries 101. Participants will review boundaries, power, vulnerability, and self-care; significant time will be devoted to internet technology and social media.

- Tuesday, November 13, 2018, 9am – 4pm
- Ray of Hope Christian Church, 2778 Snapfinger Rd., Decatur, GA 30034

(Prerequisite: Healthy Boundaries 101 or similar foundational workshop)

To register for the training, visit the Disciples website: gadisciples.org/clergy/HealthyBoundariesWorkshop.asp

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Free Webinar: Social Media for Churches

The Insurance Board is offering a free webinar about social media for churches. It will be held on Monday, October 22 at 2:00 p.m. EDT. The course will provide guidelines to make sure social media is working for your church and not against it. The guest presenter is Ryan Wakefield from SocialChurch.co. Register for the webinar on the Insurance Board site.

Human Trafficking Faith-Based Toolkit

The Department of Homeland Security released a Faith-Based and Community Toolkit to raise awareness of human trafficking. The toolkit equips faith leadership to respond to the needs of victims or those vulnerable to harm and to build stronger partnerships with social service agencies, advocacy groups, and law enforcement. Learn more about other DHS Blue Campaign Resources, including the General Awareness Training Video.

Healthy Congregations Workshop in Atlanta

Healthy Congregations, an interdenominational workshop for clergy and lay leaders, will be held Friday evening and Saturday, November 16-17, 2018 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. The goal of this outstanding training event is to help church leaders deal effectively with the chronic anxiety and conflict that plague many congregations today. Participants learn how to put limits on destructive behavior, prevent anxiety from infecting the whole church, and facilitate healthy change. **Sign up no later than November 2, 2018 to take advantage of their early-bird or congregational group discounts.** Learn how you can function as your congregation's "immune system!"

For more information about the mission and programs of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, please visit their website. For a detailed brochure and/or congregational group discount coupon, click on the Brochures & Coupons tab at *www.LMPeaceCenter.org*.

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